



A joint publication between the N.C. Division of Emergency Management and N.C. Emergency Management Association

North Carolina Team Briefs President Obama on Local/State Hurricane Preparations

As coastal states began preparations for the predicted active hurricane season, four delegates from North Carolina met with President Obama to describe what they were doing at the state and local levels to ensure our communities and counties are prepared.

Gov. Bev Perdue, Crime Control and Public Safety Secretary Reuben Young, NC Emergency Management Director Doug Hoell and New Hanover County Emergency Management Director Warren Lee described for the nation's leader how it takes a whole community to prepare for,

respond to and recover from a hurricane, tornado, flood or any other major disaster.

The quartet met June 1 with the president, as well as, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco, National Hurricane Center Director Bill Read, FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, Verizon Wireless CEO Dan Mead, CEO for the American Red Cross Gail McGovern and chairman of the National Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters Mickey Caison.

"We believe all sectors of the community need to practice preparedness and be active participants in the response and recovery phases of a disaster," said Hoell.

Hoell said North Carolina has used Homeland Security grant dollars to develop significant disaster response capability that may be activated and deployed through mutual aid to any part of the state. This impressive response capability was demonstrated in April when 25 tornadoes struck the state in a single day.

"The whole of community concept where neighbors help neighbors isn't new to us," explained Hoell. "It truly is the way we do business."

"Hurricane season is here," said Lee. "Now is the time to continue strengthening our readiness posture before the first tropical cyclone appears on the horizon."



President Barack Obama listens as FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate speaks about federal preparedness for the 2011 hurricane season, during a briefing at the White House, June 1. Taking part in the meeting, clockwise from the President, are: Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano; Governor Bev Perdue; Heidi Avery, Deputy Ass. to the President for Homeland Security; Doug Hoell, NCEM; Gail McGovern, CEO American Red Cross; Mickey Caison, Chair of the National Volunteer Organization Active in Disasters; Bill Read, Director, National Hurricane Center (on screen); Jane Lubchenco, NOAA Administrator; Alyssa Mastromonaco, Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations; and Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

Local Emergency Management Officials Visit N.C. Congressional Delegation

By Brian Short, Vance County Emergency Operations Director

Recently, members from the North Carolina Emergency Management Association (NCEMA) visited Washington, D.C. to meet with elected leaders on several emergency management issues. The delegation included Gordon Deno, Wilson County Emergency Management coordinator and NCEMA first-vice president; Brian Short, Vance County Emergency Operations director and NCEMA legislative committee chair; and Eric Griffin Guilford County Emergency Management assistant coordinator and NCEMA legislative committee member. Additionally, Martha Braddock, policy advisor for the International Association of Emergency Management, was present and offered valuable insight.

Visits with North Carolina Officials

During the three-day trip, the group met with several of the state's elected leaders and their staff including Senator Kay Hagan and Representatives Brad Miller, Howard Coble, Renee Elmers and David Price, who serves as ranking member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee. During each visit, it was clear how strong the support on Capitol Hill was for emergency management and for the responder community as a whole. The delegation was repeatedly complimented on the state and local response to the April tornado outbreak.

To prepare for the trip, the NCEMA contingent developed packets for each elected official containing basic background information on emergency management, as well as individual position papers outlining the NCEMA's most pressing concerns for the next budget cycle.

Among the highlighted topics was the continued or increased funding for Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) and the concern that EMPG may be combined with other FEMA grant programs or lumped into the huge Homeland Security Grant funding program. During individual meetings, the group encouraged leaving EMPG as a separate account under FEMA in order to preserve the original intent of the grant program.

The group also discussed continued funding of the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Institute, two federal agencies that were facing drastic reductions in the coming year. Lastly, the NCEMA delegation shared their concerns about the loss of funding through the US Drug Enforcement Agency to the NC State Bureau of Investigation to clean up methamphetamine labs. Though this was a last minute addition to the planned agenda, the group made it clear that the cut would most certainly have a negative impact on local budgets, in particular local emergency management budgets.



NCEMA delegation visits North Carolina congressional members in Washington. Above (from left) Eric Griffin, Paul Cox, Brian Short, Gordon Deno, Rep. David Price and a member of Price's staff. Below (from left): Deno, an Elmers staff member, Rep. Renee Elmers, Griffin, Short and Martha Braddock.



Session of the US House Appropriations Committee

While in Washington, the delegation sat in on House Appropriations Committee meeting as they reviewed budget recommendations submitted by the Homeland Security Subcommittee for the next fiscal year.

Several House members spoke in strong opposition of proposed funding cuts and also opposed reducing or eliminating several federal grant programs, which would negatively impact the first responder community. Congressman David Price, ranking member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee was particularly outspoken on this subject, emphasizing how critical it was to fund these programs and to provide as much support as possible to our first responders.

While no federal agency or grant program was off limits when it came to potential cuts, the one program that appeared to have very strong bipartisan support was the Emergency Management Performance Grant. Leaders of both parties expressed interest in seeing this grant program sustained or increased, commenting repeatedly on how well this grant was managed throughout the nation. In fact, the EMPG was the only grant in the Homeland Security Appropriations bill that was not cut in any way.

Comments from the Visiting Delegation

As the visit to Washington drew to a close, the travelers admitted that nothing was certain, but they did feel the trip was a success. The members noted that after their visit, the House recommended a \$10 million dollar increase nationally in Emergency Management Performance Grants, maintained \$40 million dollars in pre-disaster Mitigation Grants, preserved the funding for the National Weather Service and even recommended increasing the funding for the Emergency Management Institute for the next fiscal year.

NCEMA members emphasized that it was clear North Carolina elected leaders are firm supporters of what we do, even in the face of mounting fiscal challenges.

“Being able to speak to them face to face about our concerns keeps them informed and educates them as to the unique and varied world of emergency management,” said Brian Short. “Legislative trips such as this are absolutely critical to sustaining our operations both now and in the future.”

2011 NCEM-ECU Hurricane Workshop

By Joseph Dawson and Donna Kain, Renci at East Carolina University

More than 100 emergency management personnel, East Carolina University faculty, National Weather Service (NWS) meteorologists, and emergency technology specialists from the Renaissance Computing Institute (RENCI) attended the 2011 NCEM-ECU Hurricane workshop May 18 at ECU’s Murphy Center in Greenville. North Carolina Emergency Management, in partnership with ECU’s Natural Hazards Research and the Renci Engagement Center sponsored the workshop that focused on forecasting tools for storm surge and flooding.

In addition to attending presentations about storm surge and flooding “toolboxes,” participants provided feedback to the NWS about the tools they use for response and communication during emergencies. Breakout sessions in the afternoon provided additional opportunities for participants to further discuss storm surge and river flooding tools and ways to make the tools more effective for emergency managers.

Keynote speaker Dr. Rachel Davidson of the University of Delaware discussed approaches to regional hurricane evacuation and sheltering. Davidson described current trends that include a broader decision framework focused on variables including objectives such as evaluating safety and cost and alternatives such as sheltering-in-place and phased evacuation. Davidson stressed the need to consider uncertainty in hurricane scenarios explicitly and to plan for evacuation and sheltering together.

Although NOAA’s hurricane outlook was not officially released to the media until the day after the workshop, Jeff Orrock, warning coordination meteorologist for the Raleigh NWS, forecasted 2011 as an active season with the National Hurricane Center predicting 19 named storms and 12 hurricanes. Colorado State and N.C. State University

outlooks predict an average of 13-16 named storms and 7-9 hurricanes for the 2011 hurricane season. Orrock concluded by advising managers to prepare for the worst and hope for the best during any hurricane season.

Storm Surge Toolbox and Products

Jamie Rhome, Storm Surge Program manager with the National Hurricane Center, and Richard Bandy, meteorologist-in-charge for the Newport/Morehead City NWS, provided an overview of the NHC Storm Surge Product Decision Support Wedge that offers a three-tiered approach to using available storm surge data for decision support. They stressed the 24-hour to 28-hour window that is often critical for decision-making. Rhome and Bandy stressed that it is important to consult multiple storm surge products within this window. Storm specific uncertainties are accounted for in the probabilistic storm surge product, while the MOMs and MEOWs provide worst-case storm surge estimates at regional levels. The Hurricane Local Statement available from the NWS and Weather Forecast Offices summarizes local impacts from storm surge.

NCEM's Hope Morgan focused on several tools geared specifically for North Carolina. Morgan discussed two databases: Integrated Hazard Risk Management and N.C. State Preparedness and Resource Tracking Application. These two databases help provide emergency managers and the general public with real-time, spatially-enabled decision making and notification of river flooding. All data collected by the GIS division of NCEM can be found at www.ncfloodmaps.com.

River Flood Toolbox and Products

Jeff Dobur, hydrologist for the Southeast River Forecast Center, and Michael Moneypenny, hydrologist for Raleigh NWS, told participants about tools available to predict river forecasts and warning, as well as flood outlooks and probabilities. These tools include Inundation Mapping, Crest-to Crest Relationships, Model River Guidance, Flash Flood Guidance, Observed and Probable Rainfall Totals, and Real-time USGS Monitoring of Major Rivers in Eastern NC. Jeff Orrock discussed real time flood risk analysis and new river forecast and warning tools provided by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Videos of workshop presentations and other materials from the conference are available at <http://www.ecu.edu/nci/News/HurricaneWorkshop2011.html>.

Hyde Holds Hurricane Workshop to Prepare Staff

By Dianne Curtis, NCEM Eastern Branch manager

Hyde County began ramping up for hurricane season by conducting a hurricane workshop May 19-20. County Manager Mazie Smith arranged for the workshop to ensure all county departments, many which have new staff, were prepared for hurricane season.

Facilitated by NCEM area coordinators Melissa Greene, Chris Gwin, David Weldon and ECU Intern Chris King, the workshop provided local officials with an opportunity to evaluate and update emergency plans and policies. Their goals were to: incorporate all the items identified from last year's tabletop exercise into the county's Emergency Operations Plan; develop agency specific procedures and checklists; and update county policies.

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Clockwise: Mazie Smith, David Styron, Sheriff David Majon and David Weldon discuss agency response to a hurricane that impacts Hyde County.

Hyde Holds Hurricane Workshop (continued)

During the workshop, the county reviewed hurricane-related standard operating procedures for each department and developed specific guidance on agency roles and responsibilities. They also developed checklists for each functional division, developed standard operating procedures for communication and travel between the mainland and Ocracoke EOCs, developed an indigent transport plan, finalized a re-entry plan to be adopted into county policy, outlined guidance for cost and asset tracking, and developed standard procedures for public information operations.

Multiple county departments participated in the workshop including: Emergency Management, EMS, Law Enforcement, Fire, Human Resources, Finance, Logistics, Public Health, and Department of Social Services, as well as the county public information officer and three of the five county commissioners.

County Manager Mazie Smith wrapped up the workshop by reviewing the progress made by the departments and created time lines for any outstanding items that needed to be completed.

Disaster Aid to Tornado Survivors Tops \$15 Million; \$8 Million Goes to Governments

Federal and state disaster assistance grants and loans totaling more than \$15.1 million are helping North Carolina homeowners, renters and businesses recover from the severe storms and tornadoes of April 16.

In addition, more than \$8 million in federal Public Assistance funding has gone to state agencies and local governments in the counties under the disaster declaration to pay for emergency measures and work to repair and replace storm-damaged infrastructure, buildings and equipment. Of that figure, nearly \$7 million was for debris removal. Public Assistance is a cost-share program in which the Federal Emergency Management Agency pays 75 percent of the cost of eligible projects and the state pays the 25 percent nonfederal share.

“We measure recovery not only in dollars, but the progress we see in communities,” N.C. Emergency Management Director Doug Hoell said. “Our partnership with FEMA is helping North Carolinians get back on their feet.”

Assistance to individuals includes:

- More than \$4.8 million for temporary housing and home repairs.
- More than \$1.9 million to help individuals replace personal property and pay certain other disaster-related needs not covered by insurance or other aid.
- More than \$8.3 million in U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters and businesses.

“If you suffered damage or loss as a result of the April 16 storms and haven’t called FEMA, do it now, Federal Coordinating Officer Michael Bolch said. “You can always update your insurance information, but if you’re not registered by Monday, June 20 you won’t be eligible.”

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FEMA Community Relations Specialists assists injured tornado survivor as she awaits arrival of her new FEMA park model home to be delivered following the severe storms and deadly tornadoes that ripped through the state April 16. David Fine/FEMA

Disaster Aid to Tornado Survivors (continued)

- More than 9,100 people in the 19 counties under the disaster declaration have registered with FEMA for disaster assistance.
- Nearly 4,800 SBA disaster loan applications have been sent to homeowners and renters, of which 14 percent have been returned to SBA. FEMA's housing assistance and Other Needs Assistance grants for medical, dental, and funeral expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA to be considered for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses. Applicants who do not qualify for a SBA loan may be eligible to receive Other Needs Assistance grants for these items.
- 32 families are now living in temporary manufactured housing units supplied by FEMA at the state's request.

Duplin County Shows Students Key to Life

By Reid Southerland, Duplin County Emergency Management

This spring, Duplin County partnered with state and local agencies to promote safe behavior and safe choices during prom season. Two exercises, known as "Keys to Life" and "Fun to Fatal," were designed for juniors and seniors at five area high schools.

Started in 2001 through the Governor's Highway Safety Program, the program shows high school students the consequences of underage alcohol and drug use and demonstrates how a single choice could be their key to life.

Two years ago, when the county hosted the event, there were no alcohol-related deaths in the area involving teens during the prom or spring break. As part of the 2011 exercise, teens heard a powerful testimony from a mother, Nancy Kennedy, who lost her teen aged daughter 18 months ago in an ATV accident. She spoke of her daughter's death and how devastating it is to lose a child no matter the circumstances.

The program started with a presentation by N.C. Alcohol Law Enforcement agents in the school gym. Every 15 minutes, students heard crash and heart beat sounds and a student's name was called. The student stands as the Grim Reaper, along with a State Trooper, walks over and leads the student to the front of the audience. The Grim Reaper provides the trooper the student's obituary to be read aloud. This is repeated three to four times during the 45 minute program.

Students then move outside to a parking lot to see a mock vehicle crash with emergency teams responding with lights and sirens to demonstrate what happens at a wreck scene. Students volunteer to be victims in the crash and their parents also participate which makes for a very powerful and realistic scenario. As the funeral home arrives to put one of the victim's in the back of the hearse, students get a realistic sense of how the tragedy impacts the student body and you will usually see them crying and hugging each other.

Duplin County Emergency Management would like to thank the N.C. ALE, Highway Patrol, Emergency Management, Duplin County Sheriff's Department, EMS and county school system, Fire Marshal's office, the voluntary fire departments, Duplin General Hospital, and NC Cooperative Extension Service for their help and participation in these exercises. Their assistance was vital to the success of these events.



Emergency crews respond to a staged crash as part of the Keys of Life program in Duplin County.



2011 Search and Rescue Workshop

By Dianne Curtis, NCEM Eastern Branch manager

NC Emergency Management, Wayne County Emergency Management and the Arr-Mac Search and Rescue Team co-hosted the 2011 Search and Rescue Workshop June 15 in Goldsboro to provide local, state and federal agencies an opportunity to share the latest information in Search and Rescue. The workshop also gave participants a chance to network and get hands on experience with the latest rescue equipment.

Several groups hosted static displays including Arr-Mac Fire Dept SAR, Sidney Dive Team, Sampson County Dive Team, NC Task Force 10 USAR, North Carolina Highway Patrol and the United States Coast Guard (Hoboken). Aviation static displays included the Wayne County Sheriff's Office "Raven," NCNG UH-72 Lakota, NCSHP Bell 407, WakeMed Air transport, USCG Jay Hawk from Elizabeth City, and USMC PEDRO from MCAS Cherry Point.

Presentations included Side Scan Sonar updates, Underwater Grid Search and Clue Preservation for searchers.

There were two demonstrations for the attendees. Mark Webb with Coastal Carolina Search and Rescue Team brought "Bubbi", a 2 year old Malinois K-9, trained in air scent. He and his K-9 handler searched for and found a live person hidden on the golf course. The NCSHP Bell 407, which is part of the North Carolina Helo Aquatic Rescue Team, provided a short haul demonstration. This was the first time many rescuers from eastern NC had seen the SHP Bell and its capabilities that support helo-aquatic rescue.

Emergency Response Agencies Train Together in Homeland Security Exercise



Coast Guard crews respond to a potential threat, (above) while National Guard troops (below) partner with the Army to respond to a hazmat incident as part of the Point Defender 2011 drill.



Approximately 200 people from more than a dozen local, state and federal agencies trained together June 13-17 to test and rehearse their coordinated response efforts to a series of suspicious events across Brunswick and New Hanover counties.

"Whether responding to a potential terrorist event or preparing for a hurricane, we want to ensure that all agencies involved in emergency response know each other's capabilities, strengths and limitations," said Capt. Anthony Popiel, commander of the Coast Guard Sector North Carolina.

The Point Defender exercise is an annual anti-terrorism, force protection and emergency management training opportunity that tests the response and coordination capabilities at the federal, state and local levels.

The exercise began last week with simulated notification of various suspicious activities. Several scenarios unfolded during the week including an explosion and subsequent fire on board a cargo ship near the Military Ocean Terminal at Sunny Point, a mass casualty incident at MOTSU and a hostage situation on the Southport to Fort Fisher passenger ferry.

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Emergency Response Agencies Train Together (continued)

“We don’t want to introduce ourselves and exchange business cards during an actual emergency or disaster,” said NC Emergency Management Area Coordinator Paula Brown. “Training together provides that invaluable opportunity to work together, identify our strengths as a team and improve upon our weaknesses.”

Participating federal agencies included the U.S. Coast Guard, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Defense, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Army Corps of Engineers. State agencies participating in the Point Defender Exercise included NCEM, NC National Guard, State Ports Authority, NCDOT Ferry System and the Information Sharing and Analysis Center. Brunswick County Emergency Services and Sheriff’s office, New Hanover County Emergency Management and Sheriff’s office and Wilmington Police and Fire departments rehearsed with the state and federal partners in the week-long exercise.

Staff Announcements**State:**

Dan Brubaker – joined NCEM in June as an engineer with the Geospatial and Technology Management section.

Kurt Golembesky – joined NCEM in May as an engineer with the Geospatial and Technology Management section.

Ed Koch – is a new training officer who came to NCEM from Maryland.

Don Moye – is the new exercise officer. He came to NCEM in April from New Jersey and is a former police officer.

The MEMO newsletter is produced as a collaborative effort between NC Emergency Management and the NC Emergency Management Association. Questions or comments can be directed to NCEM PIO Julia Jarema at jjarema@ncem.org or 919-715-3747.